BENGALURU, MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

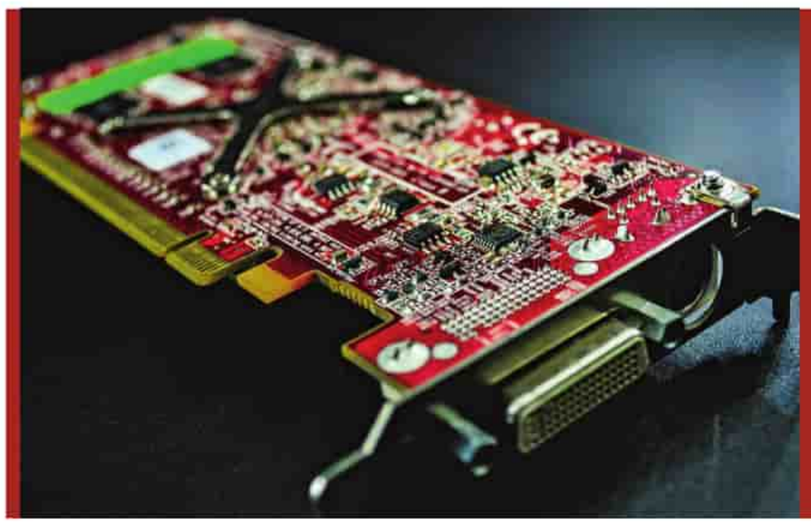
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 21 | Humidity 79% Light rain Sensex 82,188 | Nifty 25,003 | Gold 97,051 | Silver 1,05,526 | Dollar 85.76 | Euro 97.61 | GBP 115.94

PRIVATE MATTER

197 applications already submitted this year for new private PU colleges as govt and aided institutions fall out of favour

PAGE 4



CLOSE LOOK

Police dept issues directive to all its units to send mobiles for examination of evidence within 30 days of seizing them

PAGE 3

Bengaluru accounts for 1,386 POCSO cases as of April 2025; state registers 10 such cases daily even as conviction rates remain dismal — of 8,000 cases filed in 2023 and 2024, only 130 reached logical end

CRYING SHAME

City registers maximum cases as state sees 39% spike in 5 years

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Bengaluru is at the forefront of a troubling increase in child sexual abuse cases registered under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, reporting the highest number of cases in the state. As of April 2025, an average of 10 POCSO cases are being recorded daily across Karnataka, with Bengaluru alone accounting for 1,386 cases—the highest among all districts.

From January 2021 to April 2025, Karnataka has registered a total of 15,409 POCSO cases, marking a sharp rise of nearly 39% since 2021 when 2,882 cases were reported. Other districts with significant numbers include Shivamogga (456), Mysuru (442), Chikkaballapur (410), Tumakuru (362), Belagavi (335), Mandya (311), and Hassan (322). While some North Karnataka districts report around 100 cases each, most South Karnataka districts have seen figures exceed 150.

Conviction rates remain low

Despite the surge in reported cases, conviction rates remain

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **“In several cases, the accused is someone the victim was close to or in a relationship with. Due to fear of social stigma and concerns about the girl’s future, parents hesitate to provide complete testimony in court**
>
> —Legal expert

Hiss and tell

36 people lost their lives to snake bites in state so far, which is double the number of fatalities in same period last year

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A steep rise in snakebite deaths across Karnataka has prompted the state government to tighten its response mechanisms, after 36 people lost their lives in just the first five months of 2025, which is double the fatalities recorded during the same period last year.

The spike in both deaths and total cases, 4,786 so far, up 46% from 3,268 in 2024, is now forcing a hard look at how the state’s public health, forest, and urban development sectors are coordinating on an issue that sits at the intersection of environment, infrastructure, and awareness.

Government data from the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) paints a concerning picture of increased human-snake interactions, largely driven by habitat loss, urban sprawl, and climate change-induced rainfall patterns. Snakes are increasingly being spotted in homes, schools, and drainage systems, especially during monsoons, when floodwaters force them out of their burrows.

District-wise data reveals that Shivamogga continues to be the worst-hit, reporting 289 cases, followed by Mandya (256), Hassan, and Dakshina Kannada. Bengaluru logged 41 cases, while Chamarajanagar reported the highest

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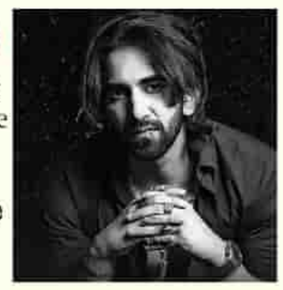
THINGS TO DO

01 Soulful music



Vilen, the singer-songwriter from Delhi, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his soulful music. **Where: Ignite Super Club, HSR Layout; When: June 27, 7 pm**

02 Theatrical journey

Tanariri Theatres is presenting 'Matsya Avatar', a story of love, survival, and the weight of choices in the face of disaster. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: June 20, 7.30 pm**

03 Sacred steps

'The Goddess', a classical dance performance, will be presenting three compositions that explore the forms of different goddesses. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: June 21, 6 pm**

04 Jazzed up

Seven-time Grammy winner Randy Brecker and two-time Grammy winner Peter Erskine will be performing in Bengaluru for the first time. Their band includes acclaimed musicians Yaacov Mayman, Otmaru Ruiz, and Richie Goods. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: July 6, 6.30 pm**

05 Timeless hits

Rajesh Krishnan, will be performing live, presenting a soulful, nostalgic, and electrifying night. The iconic playback singer will be celebrating decades of Kannada musical brilliance by mesmerising the audience with timeless hits. **Where: Orion Mall, Rajajinagar; When: July 26, 6.30 pm**

Circular Railway project to undergo route change?

Proposed project looping around Bengaluru's periphery will connect key growth zones such as Doddaballapur, Devanahalli, Malur, Heelalige, Solur, and Nidavanda

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The much-anticipated Circular Railway project, designed to enhance connectivity to and around Bengaluru, may undergo significant realignment. Originally proposed to stretch between Devanahalli and Anekal, the revised plan extends the route's total length from 34 km to 39 km, reflecting critical changes in alignment and regional considerations. The earlier proposed Malur–Anekal corridor has now been altered due to objections from the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu, as parts of the previous alignment fell under its jurisdiction. To resolve this, the new route will pass through key emerging localities such as Swiss Town, Infosys Headquarters at Sarjapur, and Dodda Thimmasandra, eventually linking Lakkur and Hosahalli. This section, which was initially 21 km long, has now been extended to 23 km.

Sources said that further changes have been implemented along the Malur–Devanahalli stretch as well. In D Shettihalli, a planned real estate development over 100 acres has necessitated minor diversions to the route. In Channarayapatna, the earlier route passed through Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) land, which now hosts several industrial units. To avoid disruption, the alignment will bypass the developed industrial zones and instead connect via Bendigannahalli and Thimmanahalli to the proposed rail terminal at Devanahalli. Consequently, the length of this stretch has increased from 13.01 km to 15.06 km.

Originally proposed to stretch between Devanahalli and Anekal, the revised plan extends the route's total length from 34 km to 39 km

Integration with suburban railway network

Looking ahead, the Circular Railway project will work in tandem with the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) to provide a seamless transit network across the city and its outskirts. A detailed feasibility study is being conducted to examine integration possibilities between these two major projects. Similar to the metro system within the city core, this suburban and circular railway system will play a vital role in connecting the outer districts to Bengaluru, offering a reliable mass transit alternative. To coordinate and evaluate this integration, K-RIDE (Karnataka Railway Infrastructure Development Company) is conducting a feasibility assessment to ensure that the circular rail complements the ongoing suburban railway developments.

"The Circular Railway project around Bengaluru is being proposed as a sustainable and long-term solution to the city's growing traffic and mobility challenges," said Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna. He noted that a detailed survey has already been conducted, which highlighted some implementation hurdles. "The proposed network, covering approximately 271 kilometres, is designed to link Bengaluru's peripheral areas and integrate seamlessly with the upcoming Suburban Railway and National Highways," he said. The project aims to ensure smoother and more efficient transportation for both commuters and industries. About 2,500 acres of land will be required for the project, and the entire cost will be borne by the central government. The initiative is being developed with a 50-year infrastructure outlook to serve the long-term mobility needs of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region.

Some of the proposed segments include:

- Nidavanda to Doddaballapur: **40.9 km**
- Doddaballapur to Devanahalli: **28.5 km**
- Devanahalli to Malur: **46.58 km**
- Malur to Heelalige: **52 km**
- Heelalige to Hejjala: **42 km**
- Hejjala to Solur: **43.5 km**
- Solur to Nidavanda: **34.26 km**

The proposed Circular Railway looping around Bengaluru's periphery will connect key growth zones such as Doddaballapur, Devanahalli, Malur, Heelalige, Solur, and Nidavanda. With ongoing revisions and minor extensions, the total route length is expected to rise slightly to 291 km. A rail activist said, "This ambitious infrastructure project aims to ease traffic pressure on the city, boost suburban development, and support the growing economic ecosystem across Bengaluru's extended metropolitan region."

BMTC pilots 'On Board' technology to empower visually impaired commuters

The system is aimed at making travel safer and easier for visually impaired passengers

In a move aimed at making public transportation more inclusive, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has begun piloting an assistive technology called 'On Board' to support visually impaired passengers in travelling independently and with confidence.

For visually impaired individuals, navigating bus routes in a city like Bengaluru—where even the general public struggles to identify routes and stops—is a major challenge. Identifying the right bus, understanding its route, and locating designated stops often requires assistance from others, leading to mental stress and reduced self-reliance. BMTC's new initiative promises to bridge this gap.

What is 'On Board'?

Developed collaboratively by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in New Delhi, and a few companies, the 'On Board' system consists of two key components: an external device fitted on the bus and a remote device provided to the user. The system is aimed at making travel safer and easier for visually impaired passengers. So far, the technology has been installed in 25 BMTC buses operating on the Kengeri-Yelahanka route. If successful, it will be gradually extended to BMTC's entire fleet. "This device instills confidence amongst visually impaired commuters, allowing them to travel independently. We've already received encouraging feedback from users," said a BMTC official.

The 'On Board' system consists of two key components: an external device fitted on the bus and a remote device provided to the user

Positive reception and training

BMTC sources said that over 500 visually impaired individuals have already been trained on how to use the device. Currently, 25 selected users are benefitting from the technology, and officials have confirmed plans to expand this to all visually impaired commuters in the near future through systematic training programs.

Funded through CSR initiative

The pilot implementation has been entirely funded through a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. Continental Automotive Components Pvt Ltd has partnered with BMTC for this initiative and is responsible for fitting the devices on the buses. The device is mounted on the lower glass panel at the front of the bus, while the user is provided with a personal remote device, ensuring seamless interaction between the commuter and the bus system. A BMTC official added, "BMTC's 'On Board' project marks a commendable step toward inclusive mobility, aiming to restore confidence and independence amongst visually impaired citizens through innovative, tech-enabled solutions." **— BMB**

CRIME FILES

DRI seizes crystal meth worth ₹4.12 crore

In yet another major drug bust, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 2.038 kg of crystal meth, valued at ₹4.12 crore in the international market. Two Indian women were arrested after officers intercepted them during a parcel handover in the city.

The contraband, cleverly concealed inside packets of soya chunks, tested positive for amphetamine using an NDPS Field Test Kit. The seizure marks a shift in the modus operandi, as this time, the accused were Indian nationals, unlike previous cases involving foreign suspects.

This is part of DRI's ongoing crackdown on inter-state narcotics trade. Notably, the agency had seized 3.6 kg on May 6, 4.2 kg on April 24, and 7.5 kg on May 28, all from foreign nationals in Bengaluru.

Man falls to death from terrace

A 36-year-old man died after falling from the terrace of his house in Kadamba Layout, Mallathahalli, under the Jnanabharathi police limits late on Thursday night.

The deceased has been identified as Manjunath, an employee of a private firm. According to police, the incident occurred around 11.30 pm when Manjunath was reportedly drinking alcohol on the terrace of his two-storeyed house. He is said to have lost balance while getting up and falling, sustaining serious injuries.

He was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries on the way. The body was sent for postmortem at Victoria Hospital and later handed over to his family. A case has been registered at Jnanabharathi police station, and further investigation is underway.

2 killed in accidents involving BMTC electric buses

A man died after a BMTC electric bus rammed into a scooter near Kalyan Nagar and Hebbal Ring Road around 11.30 am on Saturday.

The man was riding with his wife and two children on the scooter when the accident occurred. Eyewitnesses said the bus ran over the rider's head, causing fatal injuries. The other family members escaped with minor injuries.

Police said the accident could have been even more tragic had the scooter not slightly swerved at the last moment. Further investigation is underway.

In a similar case, a 40-year-old man, Mohammad Jamshir, died on the spot after a BMTC electric bus hit his scooter near the Banaswadi flyover around 11 am on Saturday.

The victim was on his way to his mother-in-law's house on Tannery

One bus rams into scooter killing rider on the spot, the other occurs on Banaswadi flyover

Road from Kaveri Nagar in Mahadevapura, along with his wife Ayesha and their two young daughters.

In the impact, the children and Ayesha fell off the scooter. Ayesha sustained fractures in her right arm and leg, while the younger child, Afiyah (1.5 years), is reported to have suffered a skull fracture. The elder daughter, Alija (4 years), also suffered multiple fractures.

Jamshir's body has been sent to Dr BR Ambedkar Medical College for postmortem. His wife and children are currently undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

Drunk techie stabs auto driver at Hennur Junction

A drunk and unruly software engineer allegedly stabbed an auto driver in the Govindpura police limits during the early hours of Saturday.

The accused, identified as Vishnu, was reportedly creating a scene near Hennur Junction around 1 am. As a Hoysala patrol team tried to detain him, auto driver Ram Kumar, a resident of Kamanahalli, stepped in to help.

In the scuffle, Vishnu pulled out a knife and stabbed Ram Kumar in the stomach before collapsing himself. Both were injured and rushed to the hospital for treatment.

Ram Kumar has filed a complaint with the police. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway.

Send seized phones to forensics lab within 30 days

Police dept issues directive to all its units in move that aims to address delays in examining digital evidence

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To improve the efficiency of criminal investigations, the Karnataka Police Department has issued a strict directive requiring all police units to send seized mobile phones to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) within 30 days of seizure. This move aims to address growing concerns over delays in examining crucial digital evidence.

The order, issued by P Harishekaran, IPS, Additional Director General of Police (Crime & Technical Services), comes after reports that many Cyber, Economic, and Narcotics (CEN) police stations have been slow or even ignoring requests to forward phones for forensic analysis. Such delays have been causing significant setbacks in ongoing investigations.

According to the official memo, mobile phones relevant to any case must be prioritised and sent promptly to the FSL. The delays in processing these requests are hampering the progress of investigations, as vital digital data remains locked and unexamined for long periods.

The department has directed all Unit Officers and Station House Officers (SHOs) at CEN stations to treat these forensic requests with high priority and ensure timely forwarding without avoidable delays.

Given the growing role of digital forensics in solving crimes like cyber fraud, drug trafficking, and economic offences, this directive is expected to boost the quality and speed of police work across Karnataka.

Misuse of seized phone leads to suspension

Sources reveal that instances of misuse of seized mobile phones have also been reported, which is one of the reasons behind the delay in forwarding them to the Forensic Science Laboratory. Such misuse not only hampers the investigation process but also risks the loss or tampering of crucial digital evidence.

In one such incident, Sub-Inspector Sangappa Meti of Turuvekere Police Station in Tumakuru was suspended for allegedly accessing an accused's PhonePe account and using it for online betting. He is said to have withdrawn nearly ₹95,000 from the account.

The action was taken by SP KV Ashok after a departmental inquiry found him guilty of misconduct and negligence. The case underlines the urgent need for proper handling and close supervision of digital evidence to protect its credibility and prevent further misuse.

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Recurring flooding drowns Hutchins Road in miseries

Residents demand removal of silt and garbage from drains to facilitate rain water flowing into nearest stormwater drain, thus avoiding accumulation of water

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Residents of Cooke Town have been running pillar to post to get their grievances redressed all these years but in vain. While many in Bengaluru await rain, these residents remain fearful of the damage it would do to their homes. Residents in the area complain of water entering their homes and the neighborhood flooding every time it rains. It is said that the entire stretch on Hutchins Road 6th Cross, along the railway compound wall, ends up flooding whenever heavy rain lashes the city. The residents said that the drains on both sides of the road are choked with silt and garbage. "We have been complaining to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities about the need of desilting the drains but they did nothing till date.The vacant land adjacent to my house that belongs to railways has become a destination for miscreants and drug addicts at night," said Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, an advocate residing on Hutchins Road 6th Cross.

The heavy rain on May 19 caused havoc on Hutchins Road 6th Cross. Due to the road being flooded with rainwater, many were unable to even step out of their homes. It is also said that sewage and dirty water entered some of the houses due to flooding. Nirmala Reddy, a homemaker, said that she was shocked to see dirty water entering her home premises on May 19. She said that she had complained about the issue in an email sent to BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao on May 19, requesting him to address the issue. "I was astonished to receive a reply from the BBMP Chief Commissioner on May 29. He has cc'd me the email that he sent to his subordinates on May 29 advising to take immediate action based on my complaint that was sent on May 19," she said.

Demanding the BBMP authorities to fix the problem as early as possible to avoid inconvenience to the residents on Hutchins Road 6th Cross and other roads of Cooke Town, Albert R, Founder Member of Cooke Town Residents' Association, said that the weak and dilapidated compound wall poses danger to pedestrians. "Pedestrians find it tough to walk on this road whenever it rains as the road becomes a mini pond. I want the BBMP authorities to remove silt and garbage from the drains to facilitate rain water flowing into the nearest stormwater drain, thus avoiding flooding the road," he said.

> **"I have already written to the engineer of the Storm Water Drains Department to coordinate with the railway authorities to desilt the stormwater drain that passes through the railway land** – Priyadarshini C, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer, (Major Roads)

BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer (Major Roads) Priyadarshini C said that workers will be sent to remove the silt from the drains. "I have already written to the engineer of the Storm Water Drains Department to coordinate with the railway authorities to desilt the stormwater drain that passes through the railway land. Water logging or flooding problems will be fixed if the stormwater drain is desilted," she said.

Hutchins Road 6th Cross was entirely flooded in the aftermath of recent rains

Acute shortage of drinking water

Hutchins Road 6th Cross residents have been facing an acute shortage of drinking water due to low pressure of water supplied. They alleged that Cauvery water supplied by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is hardly sufficient, forcing them to depend on a private water supplier or BWSSB water tankers. "The BWSSB is not supplying Cauvery water on alternate days. We get Cauvery water twice a week instead of on alternate days," said Som Thomas, a resident.

The residents said that they have been facing a shortage of drinking water since August 2024, yet BWSSB authorities have failed to fix the problem. "I have to spend money to buy water from private water suppliers. I can not avail Cauvery water supplied through the water tanker by BWSSB due to traffic on the road as halting BWSSB water tanker in front of my house to unload water causes traffic jams," said Shoba Raghavan, a resident, adding that there is less traffic on the roads before 6.30 am or after 8.30 pm. "The BWSSB employees come to duty only after 10 am and go home by 5.30 pm. I was compelled to buy five tractor loads of water from a private water supplier in April. I paid Rs 800 per tractor load of water," said Raghavan.

Rising demand for new private PU colleges in the state

Applications for permission to start colleges offering new subject combinations are also increasing, with growing interest in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics

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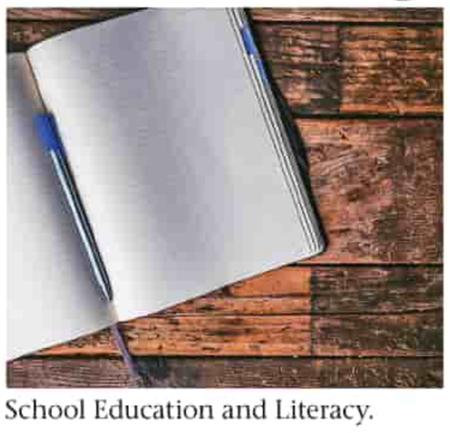
The number of pre-university (PU) colleges in the state is increasing year after year, with private institutions showing significantly higher interest compared to government and aided colleges. In the last academic year, permissions were granted for 259 new PU colleges, and this year, 197 applications have already been submitted.

According to data from the Department of Pre-University Education, the highest number of applications for starting PU colleges was recorded for the academic year 2024-25, with approvals given to 259 new colleges. Of these, 156 were private colleges, 78 government colleges, and 25 aided colleges that began operations this academic year. For 2023-24, out of 182 permissions granted, 103 were for private colleges and only 3 for government institutions.

"The department also ensures that permissions are granted only after full compliance with all regulations. Notably, 75 colleges run by minority institutions received approvals this year. Permissions are strictly granted only after adherence to every rule and guideline," said Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education and Literacy.



Application for new combinations

Applications for permission to start colleges offering new subject combinations are also rising. For the academic year 2025-26, 48 colleges across the state have applied to offer courses in PCM-B (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology), PCM-C, and EBS (Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy, Computer Science). Growing interest in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics has increased demand for combinations including Computer Science.

Rise in demand

Compared to primary and secondary schools and degree colleges, PU colleges are expanding more rapidly in the state. Over the last 2-3 years, the number of PU colleges has surged, with no decline in applications to start new institutions. Most of the colleges getting approval include science streams, reflecting growing societal interest in professional courses such as engineering and medical fields. "This trend indicates a rising attraction towards professional courses in society, including engineering and medical fields," said an education expert.

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Blocked walkway

Jayanagar

A flex has been blocking the footpath near Shell petrol pump, Jayanagar 5th block, to which BBMP has turned a blind eye.

Unsafe road

Hebbal

Road conditions in Hebbal's Kempapura Chiranjeevi Layout are deplorable. The steep slope near Chiranjeevi Layout II, close to Vidyaniketan School, is unsafe for autos, small cars, and even trucks. Despite heavy traffic using the route as a bypass from Esteem Mall to Manyata Tech Park, no repairs have been made.

Broken footpath

Townhall

The footpath in front of the LIC Main Branch, opposite Town Hall, is in a pathetic state, forcing pedestrians to navigate through broken slabs and uneven surfaces, making walking both difficult and unsafe.

MV Act may need review for toll purposes

The High Court has indicated that the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, requires review regarding vehicle descriptions for toll collection purposes.

"The Union Ministry of Surface Transport would do well to undertake a review and insert appropriate clarificatory definitions to address the evolving complexities of vehicular classifications and toll collection.

"The present dispute, while resolved within the existing legal rubric, reveals the need for statutory refinement," stated Justice M Nagaprasanna whilst dismissing the petition from the Karavali Bus Owners Association and others.

The petitioners, who hold stage carriage permits in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts, operate buses through local toll plazas. They argued that toll charges should be based on laden weight (7,500-12,000 kg) for mini vehicles.

They alleged that Udupi Sasthana Tollway Private Limited has been collecting additional toll charges via FASTag wallet accounts through a "charge back process". Their complaint to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) regarding excess collection was unsuccessful.

The NHAI maintained that debit adjustments occurred due to vehicle description mismatches, as per the concession agreement schedule. The petitioners contended their vehicles should be classified as minibuses, not buses, due to weight under 12,000 kg.

Justice Nagaprasanna observed that vehicles between 7,501 to 12,000 kg are classified as medium passenger vehicles, and this bus designation has created confusion.

–BMB

Corruption case against KIADB officer stands

The High Court has declined to dismiss a corruption case involving a Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) officer who was apprehended during a "reverse-trap" operation while attempting to return alleged bribe money of 3 lakh to the complainant.

The court noted, "In a reverse trap scenario, the public servant allegedly returns money previously received as illegal gratification. These facts, when projected before the court, require a complex evidentiary matrix. The issues that arise in cases of reverse trap are distinct from a traditional trap. The central twist in a reverse trap would be as to why the public servant returns the money."

The court emphasised that investigation is necessary to establish the public servant's innocence, as the case remains under investigation, to clarify whether a bribe was initially demanded or accepted.

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued the ruling whilst rejecting a petition by AB Vijaya Kumar, who served as Special Land Acquisition Officer (SLAO)-2 at KIADB, Bengaluru, during September 2022.

BS Arun, the complainant, had sought a no-objection certificate from KIADB for temple construction work at Laggere in Bengaluru. Despite the petitioner-SLAO allegedly demanding 4 lakh and receiving 2.5 lakh via an office colleague for the NoC, the document remained unissued despite multiple requests. Consequently, Arun filed a complaint with the KIADB Special Deputy Commissioner.

Subsequently, the petitioner issued the NoC and reportedly offered to return the bribe amount as a temple donation, requesting Mr. Arun to withdraw his complaint to the Special Deputy Commissioner.

The Lokayukta police, acting on Arun's complaint, caught the petitioner whilst returning 3 lakh to the complainant.

–BMB

The model apartment

Housing society in Yelahanka that has been harvesting rainwater and using it as potable water for two years now recognised by BBMP's Climate Action Cell

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Located in Yelahanka, the Century Saras apartment complex has transformed water management into a community-based, sustainable model. The 128 families living in the residential complex are saving nearly 1 lakh litre of water every year from going to waste.

That apart, the apartment complex is also adding thousands of litre of water to the groundwater table and using 11 lakh litres of rainwater for drinking purposes every year.

Saras's commitment to sustainable living was recognised by the Climate Action Cell of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Friday. The society received CAC's Blue-Green award for the best sustainable water management initiatives in the city.

Apart from Century Saras, the Orchid Classic Residential Gated community in South Bengaluru was also awarded for implementing sustainable living ideas.

The society has been harvesting rainwater and using it as potable water for two years now.

The water collected on the rooftop is first gravity-filtered before being stored in a sump. This is then passed through a water treatment plant, and what comes out is water that meets established drinking water standards.

This water is then supplied to the residents. Saras generates 11 lakh litres of potable water from RWH every year during the monsoon.

The residential society also boasts of eight recharge wells and one open well for groundwater recharge.

Century Saras has mastered the art of water management

"We have not used tanker water in the last 10 years due to judicious use of water, management of the groundwater table, and effective utilisation of rainwater. Half of our water usage, besides drinking, cooking, and bathing, is met through recycled water. The society uses 75 lakh liters of recycled water every year and also saves 25 lakh litres of water through the use of aerators. Every house in the society has aerators," said Shivananda G Prabhu, president, Century Saras Association.

Solar power

While Saras has won an award for its water management skills, the society is also big on solar power. A solar plant of 49.7 kilowatt per hour capacity takes care of lighting in common areas, water pumps, and lift operations.

"Our common monthly electricity bill used to be around Rs 1 lakh, which has now reduced to Rs 10 K. The plant was installed four years ago at a total cost of Rs 30 lakh. We have already recovered that amount," added Prabhu.

Classic Orchards Layout on Bannerghatta Road is another residential society recognised by CAC for sustainable practices within its community.

The society, spread over 71 acres, has more than 3,500 trees for 380 families on campus. Residents say sustainable initiatives here have been going on for the last 25 years with reuse, restore, reduce, recycle, and recharge as their mantra.

> **"We have not used tanker water in the last 10 years due to judicious use of water, management of the groundwater table, and effective use of rainwater**
>
> –Shivananda Prabhu, Century Saras

According to Swarupa Kakumanu, president of Classic Orchards Property Owners Association, an important component of sustainability on campus is to minimise runoff during rainfall.

"We have three large heritage wells that we restored to catch every drop of rain and use it for groundwater management. Our bye-law prohibits private borewells, and we have two community borewells for emergencies. We also have a sewage treatment plant with a 350 KLD per day capacity. The water from the STP is used for secondary purposes such as car washing, gardening, and maintenance of parks. To add to that, residents use only recycled water to maintain private gardens," said Kakumanu.

She says the society, through various initiatives, is preventing the release of 600 tonnes of CO_2.

That apart, the layout is also conscious about waste generated and has an in-house wet waste composting system.

"We have also tied up with a third party for sustainable management of sanitary pads. Used sanitary pads from our campus go for recycling into notebooks, plastic pots and other similar products," said a resident of Classic Orchards Layout.

Moral policing: Police take suo moto action

Two men were arrested in a case of moral policing, after a video surfaced on social media showing them confronting a boy and a burqa-clad girl riding a two-wheeler in Bidadi. The incident occurred near Old BM Road, and the video, posted by a user named Yasin Razak, quickly went viral, sparking public outrage.

The accused, travelling in a four-wheeler intercepted the duo riding a bike. In the video, the men can be heard questioning the girl's identity, making derogatory remarks about her attire, and pressuring her to call her father, while repeatedly telling her she was a disgrace.

The police, alerted by their Social Media Monitoring Cell, registered a suo moto FIR and have since arrested the accused. This is the third such incident reported in and around the city in the last two months, raising concerns over growing instances of vigilante behaviour.

–BMB

Suhas Shetty murder case: NIA steps in

The Central Government has officially transferred the investigation of Suhas Shetty's murder to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The case, originally registered by Karnataka Police, pertains to an attack that occurred on May 1, 2025, in Mangaluru City. Shetty was travelling in a car when he was allegedly attacked by Safwan and eight others. The assault caused critical injuries, leading to Shetty's death in hospital.

The accused are alleged to be associated with the Popular Front of India (PFI), an unlawful organisation. Given the targeted nature of the killing, which was intended to instill fear in the public, and the serious charges involved, including multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Arms Act, and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Central Government has determined that this constitutes a Scheduled Offence under the NIA Act, 2008.

–ANI

Sarangapani mining project gets go-ahead from KFD

Despite opposition from wildlife conservationists and environmentalists, project receives clearance from forest department, to be put forth for Centre's clearance next

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The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has given green signal to a mining project near Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary that will require diversion of nearly 50 hectares of forest land and the felling of over 17,000 trees.

The proposal was recommended by the Head of Forest Force on May 14, and will soon be moved to the Government of India to obtain Stage I clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The project has been opposed by wildlife conservationists in the past, citing reasons such as fragmentation of forest area leading to the loss of wildlife habitat. Experts say, if allowed, it may also interfere with watersheds, accelerate human-wildlife conflict, and lead to invasion by weeds and a decline in non-wood forest produce, which will threaten the livelihood of local communities. In the past, two mining proposals, located adjacent to the current proposal, have been declined by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), after site inspections were carried out.

One of them was a proposal for diversion of 155.20 hectares of forest land in Aravatige and Hosahalli villages, and the other was related to diversion of 116.55 hectares of forest land in Yarekatte and Hombalaghatta villages.

The project is said to require diversion of nearly 50 hectares of forest land and the felling of over 17,000 trees

Conservationists say that the decision of the Karnataka Forest Department to recommend another similar mining proposal adjacent to the above areas in a similar forest landscape is not justifiable, and is not in the interest of forest and wildlife conservation.

They opine that it may escalate human-wildlife conflict in Tumakuru district, which is already witnessing many cases regularly. Further, it will harm the watershed of areas like Chikkanayakanahalli, a drought-hit area, leading to the loss of livelihood for locals.

"Mining in this area will only increase human-wildlife conflict cases. Considering social, economic, and ecological issues and recommendations of MoEF&CC regarding similar proposals adjacent to the proposed area, the proposal for establishing the Sarangapani Iron and Manganese Ore Mine project should be rejected. It will be detrimental to the forest and wildlife conservation," said Giridhar Kulkarni, a wildlife conservationist.

According to the application filed by the project proponent, while the 7.53 km of the proposed mining area is not part of any national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, or elephant corridor, it is located 7.70 km away from the Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary and falls within the eco-sensitive zone of the sanctuary.

In the past, two mining proposals, located adjacent to the current proposal, have been declined by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), after site inspections were carried out

Kulkarni also underlined that the area has rich flora and fauna diversity and houses wildlife such as leopard, sloth bear, wolf, pangolin, and also four-horned antelope, a Schedule-I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Moreover, there are habitations around the proposed site, and villagers are mostly farmers who depend on the forest for water requirements.

Constitution Preamble to be read in schools

The School Education Department Commissioner has instructed all school headmasters to ensure the daily reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of India in schools. Students are now required to read the Constitution's Preamble every day during school prayer time. Teachers must arrange for one boy and one girl student each day to lead the reading aloud, while the rest of the students repeat after them. This practice aims to help students better understand the fundamental ideals and values enshrined in the constitution. To reinforce this learning, schools are encouraged to organise complementary activities based on the themes of the Preamble, including positive dialogues, debates, essay writing, art exhibitions, songs, and other related programs. Additionally, all schools have been directed to prominently display the Preamble's text in both Kannada and English languages, along with a visual representation, in a manner that is easily visible to students and staff. **— BMB**

BJP demands Assembly session on stampede

The Opposition leader R Ashoka in the Karnataka Assembly on Sunday demanded that the government call a special session of the state legislature for three days, to discuss the June 4 stampede that killed 11 people. The BJP leader, who reiterating the demand for resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, also announced that all his party legislators will contribute a month's salary to the kin of those deceased, while urging the government to enhance the compensation to Rs 1 crore.

The stampede occurred on June 4 evening in front of the Chinnaswamy stadium, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations. Eleven people died and 56 were injured in the incident.

"People of the state are raising questions, who was at fault? So call a special session of the legislature, let there be a discussion as to who was at fault, all the violations or flouting of laws need to be discussed, whether it was by police permission, DAPR, all of this should be discussed," Ashoka said. **— PTI**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

'Tear' wars

After last week's stampede tragedy, the Deputy CM DK Shivakumar couldn't hold back tears while talking to the media. But Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy wasn't having it, dismissing the display as "crocodile tears." When pressed by journalists, DKS fired back with a spicy comeback: he'd reveal in the Assembly just how many families have truly cried—and how many Kumaraswamy helped comfort. "My eyes welled up because I'm human," DKS said. "But they mock that too. Let them talk—we know when and where Kumaraswamy shed tears and what followed. We also know how many families he wiped tears from. We'll lay it all out in the session, so it's on permanent record. How can they blame me? I'm not responsible for this."

Door drama

When Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah showed up for an event at Gadag's Bhimsen Jyoti Rangamandira, he faced a surprise lockdown—not of the political kind, but literal locked doors! Due to his leg pain, he couldn't climb the main steps, so ministers tried to escort him through the side doors. But guess what? Both the left and right doors were sealed shut—no chance to sneak in! The staff's attempt to open the doors failed, and even the police tried to break the locks on the right side, but with no luck. Inside, Gadag Deputy Commissioner also tried to help open the doors but came up empty-handed. Things got so tense, they even tried shifting a huge LED screen blocking the entrance. Meanwhile, the CM, losing patience, left the venue via helicopter to Hubbali.

'If High Command calls, I'm there'

Reacting to reports that the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister met the High Command, DK Shivakumar said, "Right now, I don't have any plans to be in Delhi. The CM might have some programmes. But if the High Command leaders call, I'll definitely go." When asked whether there would be a cabinet reshuffle or expansion now that the government has completed two years in office, he replied, "That's a matter for the High Command and the CM to decide." With a cheeky grin, he added, "Let's wait and see what the steps are!"

Pride for Kannada

"I may speak Urdu at home, but Kannada is the language of my land," said International Booker Prize-winning author Banu Mushtaq, expressing concern over how today's children, despite being Kannadigas, are losing touch with their mother tongue. Mushtaq shared that she studied in a Kannada-medium school and wrote her short stories in Kannada. "Deepa Bhasthi translated my work into English. I'm not fluent in English, but I don't see that as a weakness. Language is our strength, and we must take pride in our roots," she said.

Foot-in-mouth or just misstep?

At a recent press briefing after the tragic stampede, CM Siddaramaiah wore his sorrow on his sleeve—but not without raising a few eyebrows. While expressing condolences, he nonchalantly remarked that stampedes aren't exactly breaking news in India, casually tossing in the Kumbh Mela stampede as an example from the "been-there-done-that" list. But wait—the real stampede began when a journalist reminded him that he had earlier criticised the very same Kumbh Mela incident. Cue the fireworks. Siddaramaiah, clearly not in the mood for memory games, flared up and challenged the reporter to prove it. "Did I say it? Can you prove it?!" he snapped. Not one to let go easily, another journalist chimed in, "Well, your party definitely did!", to which the CM coolly distanced himself, saying, "I didn't. My government didn't. And what the party said… that's not my department."

Support for RCB

As CM Siddaramaiah returned from his visit to Gadag district, he was seen watching the Indian Premier League (IPL) final match live on his tablet at Bangalore's HAL Airport. This moment was widely shared across social media platforms, highlighting his support for the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) team. Several politicians also posted videos and photos on their social media accounts showing how they actively supported RCB during the IPL finals. These posts included scenes from public viewing events, gatherings cheering for the team, and personal messages encouraging players. The widespread sharing of such content by political figures has sparked discussions about the blend of sports enthusiasm with political presence during major events. Observers note that this support helped boost public morale and connected politicians with the youth and cricket fans across the state. **— Sridhar Vivan**

BM SIMPLY PUT

Today we look at how Karnataka's Almatti dreams were dammed by Maharashtra's U-Turn

Dam, what just happened?

Karnataka's bid to raise the Almatti Dam height from 519.6 to 524 metres— backed by a tribunal verdict — is now facing resistance from Maharashtra, threatening interstate water relations and delaying a long-awaited Centre notification. **–BMB**

What's the issue?

The long-pending proposal by Karnataka to raise the height of the Almatti Dam on the Krishna River has once again hit a roadblock — this time from neighbouring Maharashtra. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and CM Siddaramaiah are now pushing the Centre to issue the gazette notification of the final verdict given by the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT), which legally permits Karnataka to raise the height to 524.25 meters.

Why is Maharashtra opposing it?

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has written to Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah objecting to the proposal, claiming that raising the dam height by 5 meters would increase the flood risk in Sangli and Kolhapur districts — both located downstream in the Krishna river basin.

What has Karnataka said?

DK Shivakumar expressed concern over Maharashtra's sudden objection, especially since the state had earlier submitted an affidavit in court stating it had no objection to the height increase. "Why is Maharashtra changing its stance now, after remaining silent when the KWDT gave its verdict in 2010?" he questioned.

What is Karnataka doing now?

Karnataka has intensified its lobbying efforts with the Centre. Shivakumar has urged all Members of Parliament and Union Ministers from Karnataka — across party lines — to unite and press the Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil to notify the Tribunal's final decision in the Central Gazette.

What about the cancelled meeting?

A meeting of water resources ministers from Krishna basin states, called by the Centre last month, was abruptly cancelled. Karnataka had alleged it was due to pressure from Maharashtra. It is now confirmed that Maharashtra's changed position played a role in stalling discussions.

What does Karnataka want?

Karnataka wants to fully utilise its share of Krishna waters as permitted by the tribunal and sees the Almatti dam height increase as essential for securing irrigation and drinking water needs. Shivakumar termed it a legal right and urged Maharashtra to stop obstructing Karnataka's development.

What's next?

The Karnataka CM and DCM are expected to meet Union ministers again to demand the immediate gazette notification. Siddaramaiah has assured a strong rebuttal to Maharashtra's objections, while Shivakumar has called for a united, apolitical front to safeguard the state's interests.

Byju's plea on Aakash shareholding dismissed

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has dismissed a plea filed by the Resolution Professional (RP) of the Think and Learn Private Limited (TLPL), the parent company of edtech firm Byju's, against an earlier order by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

The NCLT had directed that the shareholding in Aakash Educational Services should remain unchanged until further hearings.

A two-member bench of the NCLAT, comprising Justice Sharad Kumar Sharma and Jatindranath Swain, observed that the NCLT's direction was an interim, or interlocutory, order and appeared to be a "consensual" one.

Therefore, there was no need for the appellate tribunal to intervene at this stage, it said.

"Since the impugned order takes the shape of an interlocutory order, which is not deciding any of the rights of the parties, coupled with the fact that the order takes the shape of a consenting order, no interference is called for by this Tribunal in the exercise of its Appellate Jurisdiction at this stage," the NCLAT stated.

The dispute arose from concerns over equity fundraising activities by Aakash Educational Services, in which TLPL holds a 25 per cent stake.

On March 27, the NCLT had directed all parties to maintain the status quo regarding Aakash's shareholding until the next hearing. The TLPL, through its Resolution Professional, later challenged this direction before the Chennai bench of the NCLAT.

Meanwhile, the matter also reached the Karnataka High Court, and on April 8, it set aside the NCLT's earlier order and sent the case back to the insolvency tribunal. During the next NCLT hearing on April 30, the TLPL's counsel, senior advocate Abhinav Vasisht, raised concerns that the TLPL's shareholding in Aakash was being diluted and that important assets were being hypothecated. He further claimed that changes had been made to the Articles of Association of Aakash, which had earlier protected the TLPL's interests. **–IANS**

BM Finance Fundas

Consumer Connect Initiative

RBI cuts repo rate by 50 bps: What should FD investors do now?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cut the repo rate for the third time this year by 50 basis points. With the latest cut, the repo rate now stands at 5.5%. The cut in the repo rate brings cheers for borrowers but bad news for fixed deposit investors. The banks have been cutting the FD interest rate as the RBI started reducing the repo rate at the start of 2025. Along with the repo rate cut, the RBI has also cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 1%.

■ How has FD rate been impacted since February 2025?

The RBI has cut the repo rate by 25 bps each time in February and April 2025. Due to two successive rate cuts, banks have aggressively reduced FD interest rates.

Along with the reduction in fixed deposit interest rates, banks are also reducing the interest rates on savings bank accounts. "Banks have already reduced interest rates on savings accounts to a floor rate of 2.70%," said SBI in its report.

■ How much FD rate cuts should investors expect in future?

The RBI has cut the repo rate three times till now. According to the SBI research report, "Transmission to deposit rates is expected to be strong in the coming quarters. 100 bps repo rate cuts are expected in FY26."

This is likely to happen if the CPI inflation remains below the medium-

term target of 4%, supporting growth in fighting cyclical downturns, and if credit growth remains muted.

■ What should be FD investors' strategy?

There are limited options available to FD investors when the interest rates are falling in the economy. Here are the steps that they should take to minimise the loss and make the most of the current situation.

■ Book FDs at current high rates

The interest rates on fixed deposits are expected to fall in the upcoming months, however, it may take some time before it actually happens. There are many banks which are still offering FDs at attractive rates. Therefore, it is essential for FD investors to book FDs at current higher rates as soon as possible. Certain banks are still offering interest rates of 8% or higher for longer-term fixed deposits. However, as most of the highest interest rates currently available on FDs are being offered by Small Finance Banks so you should check the safety of your principal amount. If you book your FDs with any bank which is considered risky it will be better to book your FD in such a way that it is covered under Rs 5 lakh deposit insurance cover. Many major banks are currently offering interest rates of 7% or higher for longer-term fixed deposits.

■ Go for medium to long term FDs

As the interest rate cycle has reversed from rising interest rates to falling interest rates, it may take a while for the interest rate cycle to reach its bottom and make a turn around. While short term FDs will see quick reduction in interest rate, it may take a while for interest rate on medium to long term FDs to fall. So, if you do not have any short-term need, a strategy of locking FDs for medium to long term can be beneficial. **–Preeti Motiani, ET Online**

15,409 POCSO cases in state in 5 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dismally low. Of the nearly 8,000 cases filed in 2023 and 2024, only 130 have resulted in convictions. Meanwhile, 1,682 cases were dismissed due to flaws in the charge sheets or false accusations, with many cases still pending investigation or trial.

Legal experts note that many accused are known to the victims, often being neighbors or acquaintances. "In several cases, the accused is someone the victim was close to or in a relationship with. Due to fear of social stigma and concerns about the girl's future, parents hesitate to provide complete testimony in court, leading to case dismissals," said a legal analyst.

Known offenders and social stigma

Police reports show that in about 80% of cases, the offender is familiar to the victim. Families often avoid pursuing cases against influential accused individuals to prevent prolonged legal battles and community conflict, which complicates investigations and prosecutions.

"To combat rising sexual abuse against minors, awareness programmes are being intensified in schools, colleges, and hostels. Authorities have assured that complaints made to helplines will be acted upon promptly, with swift registration of FIRs and legal action," said a Child Protection Officer.

Habitat loss, climate change cause dangerous interactions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

number of deaths (5), followed by Dharwad and Udupi with three each.

Circular and new steps

To improve monitoring and speed up treatment, the Karnataka government has rolled out new guidelines under the National Snakebite Prevention and Control Programme, as per a Government Order issued on April 8, 2025.

The order lays out a stronger framework for action, existing H1N1 death audit committees will now also review deaths caused by snakebites, while District Magistrates have been instructed to closely track case numbers and ensure proper follow-up. District Collectors will hold quarterly review meetings with a special focus on snakebite management. The plan also includes boosting the supply of antivenom, upgrading training for healthcare staff, and expanding awareness efforts in vulnerable communities.

On-ground challenges remain

However, implementation challenges persist. Health officials acknowledge that several snakebite cases, especially those treated in private hospitals or traditional healing setups, go unreported. "We're still seeing patients lose critical time visiting healers before reaching hospitals. Awareness is growing, but access to timely treatment in rural and forest-adjacent regions remains uneven," a senior official said.

As Karnataka races to contain the rise in snakebite incidents, experts warn that unless long-term strategies, including habitat protection, urban drainage reform, and year-round awareness campaigns are adopted, the threat will only grow sharper with time.

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Match the following

Do people really resemble their dogs?

Many dog owners wonder whether they share similarities with their dogs, including characteristics like a calm temperament, a sociable personality or even a bit of stubbornness. The idea that people and dogs resemble each other is not just a joke. In fact, some researchers have explored this question.

As a clinician and researcher who has been studying different aspects of the human–animal bond and works clinically with people grieving the loss of a pet, I understand how meaningful these relationships can be. I am particularly interested in how perceived similarities and emotional connections with dogs can shape the quality of the relationship.

Understanding what is known so far about the similarities between people and dogs is crucial, as this can reveal whether perceptions of similar physical and personality traits play a role in the quality of the relationship people share with their dogs.

What researchers says about it

Research on perceived similarities between people and their dogs aims to understand whether such perceptions are accurate and how they affect the relationship between people and their dogs.

A recent review synthesizes findings from 15 empirical studies that investigated similarities between dog-human pairs, both in appearance and personality. Regarding personality, the findings suggest that dogs and their guardians may have parallel traits, such as levels of extroversion, anxiety and sociability.

Looking further, some people seem to choose dogs that physically resemble them, particularly when choosing a purebred dog. Interestingly, there seems to be a link between women's hair length and their preference for dogs with similar ear length, while short-haired women seem to favour short-eared breeds.

Another study suggests the similarity between guardians and their dogs may be particularly observed in the eye region. Other studies indicate a positive correlation between owners' body mass index (BMI) and their dogs' degree of overweight, possibly related to a shared lifestyle.

Importantly, many of these studies use questionnaires that the guardians themselves answer. That could lead some people to argue the findings only reflect the perceptions of the guardians.

However, a group of researchers asked participants who had never met the dog-guardian pairs to match photos of dogs and their guardians based on perceived similarities. Interestingly, the participants were able to correctly match most of the dog-guardian pairs. This finding suggests that similarity may not just be a matter of the guardian's own perception.

> **One explanation for personality similarities is linked to emotional exchanges between people and their dogs, mutual regulation, behavioural reinforcement and learning through observation**

Comparison to our relationships with people

But why does this happen? One hypothesis has to do with our evolutionary history, since we also tend to seek like-minded people.

In evolutionary contexts, being in cohesive and predictable groups increased co-operation and survival. These patterns continue to influence our relationships with others, favouring connections with people who appear to align with our values, behaviours or even physical traits. Apparently, similar mechanisms influence how we relate to dogs.

Similarities in are also observed for those living with purebred dogs. This might happen because people tend to choose breeds associated with certain behaviours and there is more behavioural predictability and stability in purebred dogs due to standardised breed characteristics.

Other explanations for personality similarities may be linked to emotional exchanges between people and their dogs, mutual regulation, behavioural reinforcement and learning through observation and imitation.

For example, people may reinforce certain behaviours in their dogs based on their own preferences or routines, and sometimes this may not even be intentional. At the same time, emotional exchanges between humans and dogs can also shape each other's emotional states over time.

More than a scientific curiosity, understanding how perceptions of similarity shape people's relationships with their dog can help foster more fulfilling relationships for humans and dogs. Such perceptions can lead to greater emotional investment in the bond and may even influence how people interpret and manage challenging behaviours in their dogs. For example, they might be more tolerant of certain behaviours when they identify a similar pattern in themselves.

On the other hand, while perceived similarities can strengthen the relationship, such perceptions may also shape people's expectations, leading them to project human-like characteristics onto their dogs, rather than seeing them for who they truly are.

Beyond similarity: What brings us together

Even when the personalities of people and their dogs are not alike, they can still match perfectly. Imagine a dog who is playful and energetic, living with someone who may be more reserved or introverted.

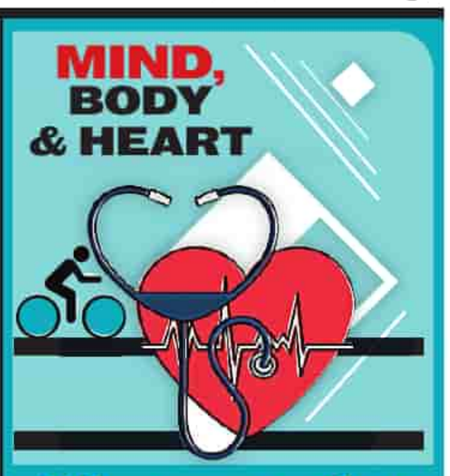
The dog's energy can encourage the person to be more active, which can lead to healthier habits such as walking or spending time outdoors. Sharing moments of joy, frustration or even sadness with a beloved dog can also provide a sense of companionship and emotional support.

Although people and their dogs sometimes resemble each other, research suggests that compatibility may be another key element to build a positive relationship with dogs. Factors such as attachment style and aspects of the human's personality may be equally relevant.

Also, the sense of similarity is not always immediate and may emerge through co-regulation and mutual reinforcement, similarly to what happens in close human relationships. In this context, compatibility can exist even when people and dogs are not alike.

Just like in relationships between people, resemblance is not necessarily what holds us together. Although resemblance plays a role, sometimes the most meaningful bonds are not between those who are alike. What seems to matter the most is how well we connect, support each other, embrace potential differences and build mutual understanding.

(By Renata Roma, University of Saskatchewan, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Calcium-rich foods

1. Oranges
Oranges contain a significant amount of calcium, but is largely in the peel and pulp. It contributes to bone health. The vitamin C content in oranges also enhances calcium absorption in the body.

2. Soy Milk & Tofu
Soybeans are rich in calcium, so these two products made directly from the beans get that too. Since it is natural, the calcium is bioavailable, making it easier for the body to draw the benefits.

3. Beans & Lentils
One of the best-known sources of plant-based calcium is through beans and lentils. They are also rich in minerals and fibre content. The calcium content varies with the kind of beans, but you can always have a variety!

4. Dried Figs
Very dense in nutrients, dried figs are great for maintenance of bone health. The presence of other nutrients like magnesium enhances calcium retention and bone strength.

5. Leafy Greens & Green Vegetables
All leafy greens (spinach, methi, mustard, kale etc) contain calcium in their cellular structures, making them excellent for calcium. Green vegetables such as ladies finger (bhindi) and broccoli are also high in calcium.

6. Sesame Seeds
We Indians love our sesame seeds so much, we add it in a variety of foods and garnishes. It's great too, since they are high in calcium because their seed coat stores this mineral in bioavailable forms. Other elements in these tiny seeds make absorption easier.

7. Chia Seeds
Chia seeds contain calcium in a highly absorbable form, contributing to bone minerals and strength. Their small size and high nutrient density make them an efficient source of calcium in plant-based diets.

–Femina

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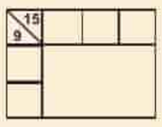
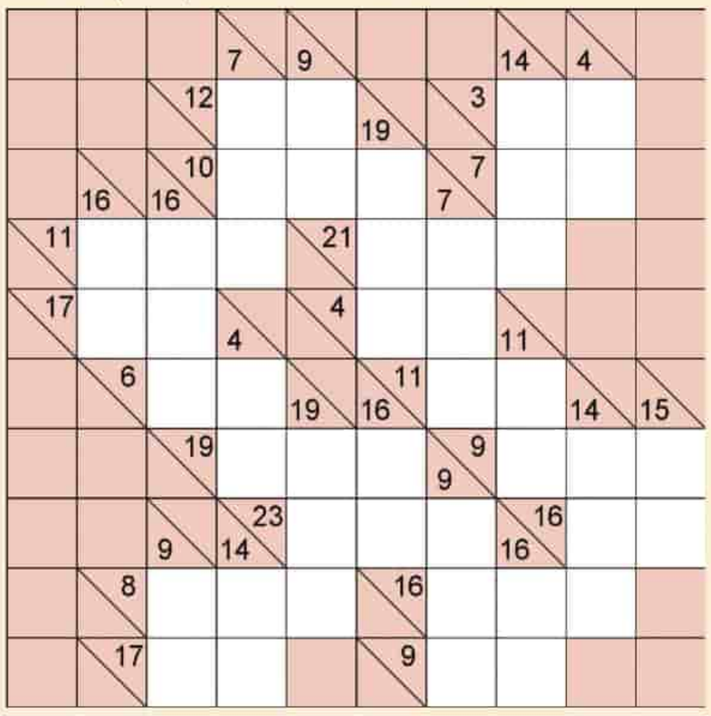
Kakuro

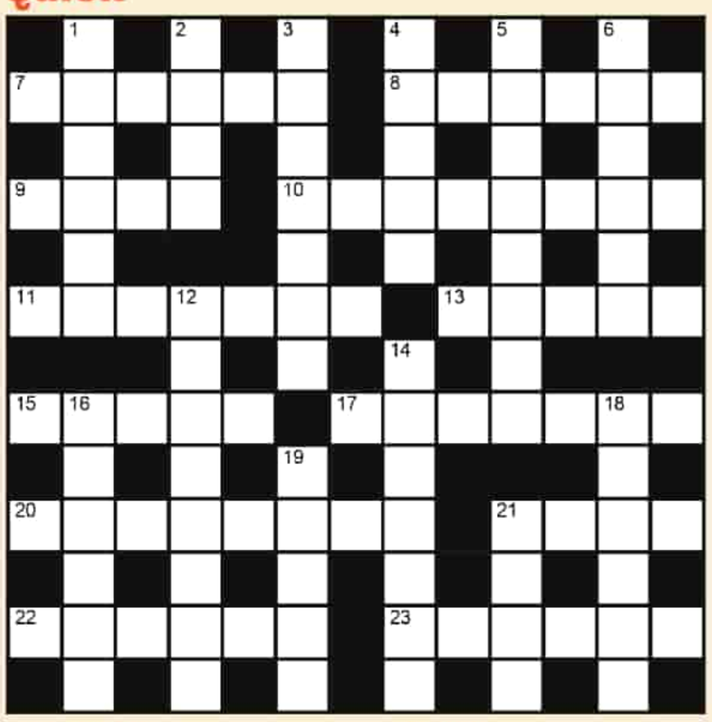
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Size of paper? (6)
8 Indo-Europeans (6)
9 Small amphibious creatures (4)
10 Ran away (6,2)
11 Arabian Nights hero (3,4)
13 Adjust again–"steer" anagram? (5)
15 ___ Villa : famous football club? (5)
17 Edible root (7)
20 Without a stop; not diminished (8)
21 Cuts off or severs (4)
22 Feast, give pleasure to (6)
23 Declaration or confession (6)

DOWN

1 Causing pity or sorrow (6)
2 God of love (4)
3 Intended rather than actual? (5-2)
4 Suspends (5)
5 European mountains (8)
6 Ill-advised (6)
12 Intimidate (8)
14 Ribbon round head (7)
16 You will find the planetarium on this road (6)
18 Capital of Manipur (6)
19 Aquatic animal (5)
21 Plunder (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS G

TCLYXZD CL PM UMFIULL ZUOUYCYCXM XG YTU EZXMQ EPD XG ICNCMQ.

Linemaro

Is your name David? Because I'm pretty sure you could only have been crafted at the hands of Michaelangelo

Mindchow

With most people, disbelief in a thing is founded on a blind belief in some other thing

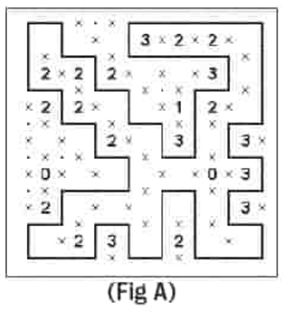
Joke of the day

No animal should ever jump up on the dining room furniture unless absolutely certain that he can hold his own in the conversation

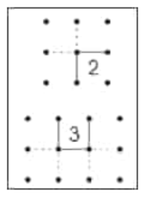
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

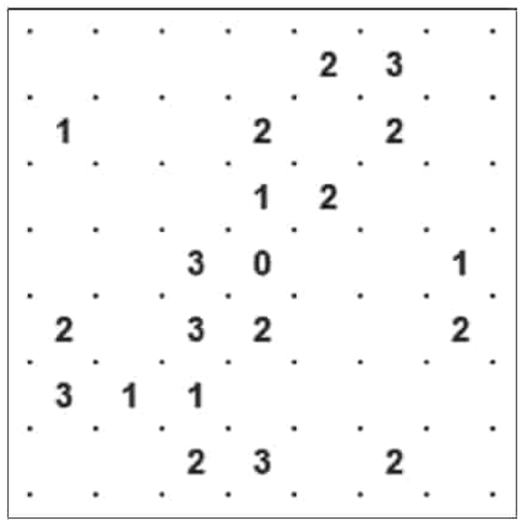


(Fig B) Not Allowed

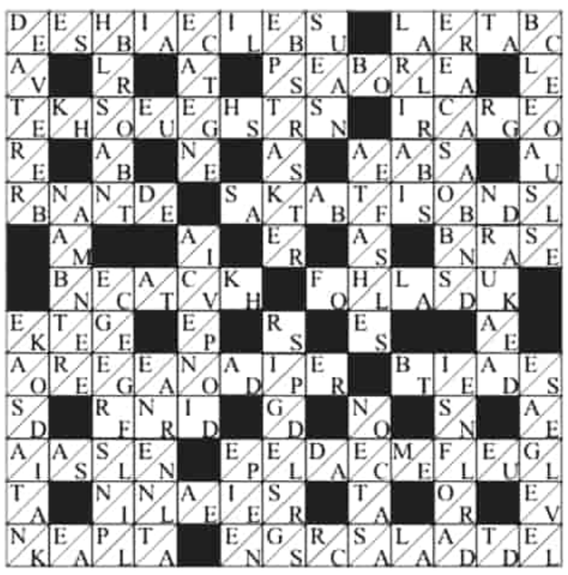
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



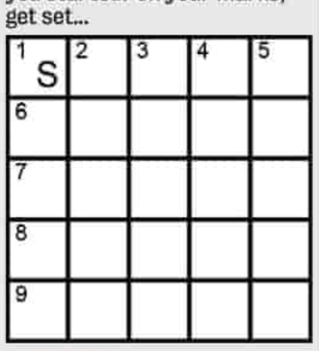
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

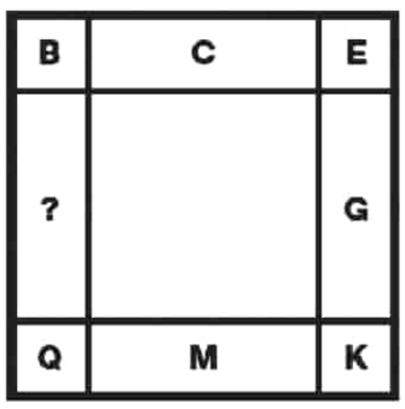
1 Wasps; 6 Macle; 7 Via so; 8 Olent; 9 Do Pro

DOWN

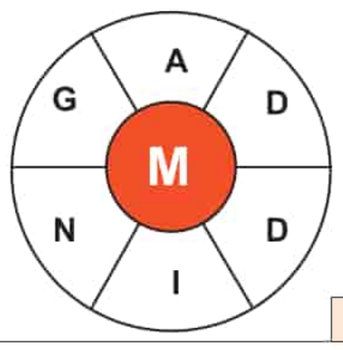
1 Clads; 2 We var; 3 Naomi; 4 Poets; 5 Polos

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the grid?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1			9	3				
					7			
8	7			2			1	3
				9		5		
9		3	5		2	6		4
		8		4				
7	5			1			6	8
			6					
				7	3			1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

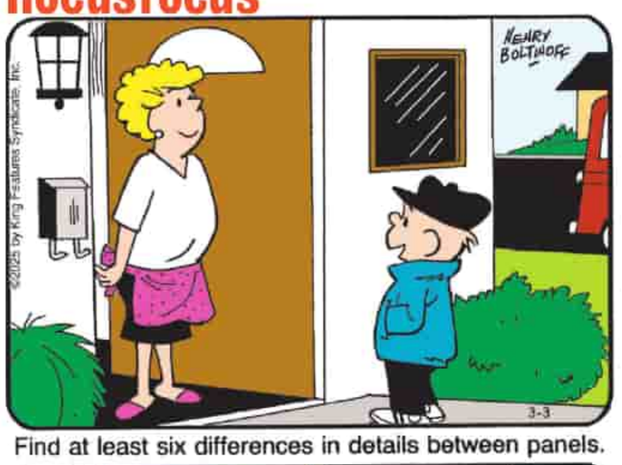
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 1
2 3 5 5

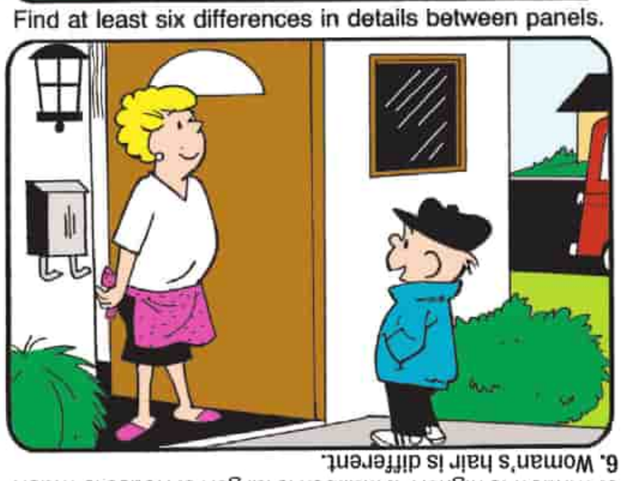
Medium = 35
1 2 2 7

Hard = 14
4 6 8 8

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



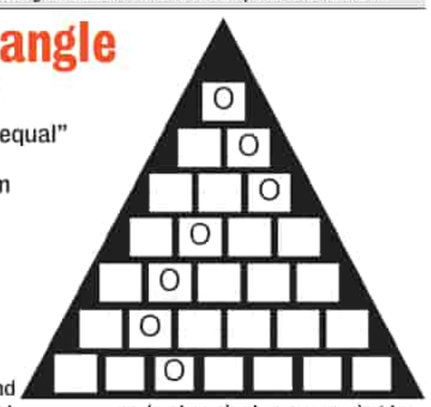
Differences: 1. Pocket is lower. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Window is higher. 4. Mailbox is larger. 5. House is wider. 6. Woman's hair is different.

Riddler

Lost in the woods, you come upon a mysterious stranger who hands you two large spheres made of two kinds of opaque marble. The spheres look the same, are the same size and have the same weight and apparent density; however, one is solid and the other hollow. The hollow sphere contains a tiny map that will enable you to navigate your way home. Unfortunately, you cannot break the spheres. The stranger agrees to open the sphere that contains the map only if you can determine which sphere is hollow. How do you determine which sphere is hollow?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 8
2 Thus
3 Prefix meaning "equal"
4 Dirt
5 Fencers use them
6 Page leaves
7 Daft



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

YA MADE ME INVISIBLE AN' ME FRIENS THINKS I YAM A GHOSK!
I'M WORKING ON A CURE!
DON'T DRAG YER ANCHOR!! BRUTUS IS TRYIN' TA STEAL ME OLIVE!
OH, WOE!
STOP CRYING, STUPID!! LOOK WHAT YOU'RE GETTING IN PLACE OF THAT SCRAWNY SAILOR!!
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY!
9-11
BRAD ANDERSON
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

He's nice enough, I suppose; he's just not decapitation material.
Wayno & Piraro 3-3-25
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Diamond Lil

I WAS ASKED TO GIVE THIS EULOGY BY A FAMILY MEMBER
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WHO OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T KNOW ME VERY WELL
THANK YOU, LIL
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

MY FRIEND, WALT, WHO LIVES AT BEDSIDE MANOR, INVITED ME TO PLAY PICKLEBALL...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY PARTNER, ED?
SORRY, BUT I DON'T PLAY GAMES NAMED AFTER FOOD ITEMS.
IS THAT WHY YOU NEVER PLAY SQUASH?
YEP... OR PARCHEESI!
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the Moon's position may negatively impact your well-being. You might experience health-related issues and a general sense of discomfort. Avoid making investments in new business ventures, as losses are likely. Students should stay grounded in reality and focus on their studies. Also, avoid rash or fast driving to stay safe.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You're likely to experience mental peace today and enjoy quality time with friends and family. Domestic harmony will improve, especially in your relationship with your spouse. A new business partnership may emerge, and innovative ideas could help expand your business. Disputes in existing partnerships may also get resolved.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Good health will uplift your mood today. Previous health concerns may now be resolved. You're likely to control unnecessary spending, and new income sources could open up, strengthening your financial position. Singles may meet a potential partner within their community.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
A positive Moon boosts your energy and productivity. You'll perform well at work and may help someone in need, earning respect from those around you. You might dedicate time to reading or intellectual pursuits, and may even consider higher education to support career growth.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may feel restless and lack confidence until evening, which could impact your work. Concerns over a parent's health or a child's behavior may cause additional stress. Focus your energy, avoid distractions, and stay away from risky investments for now.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
A joyful day is ahead. You might plan an overseas business trip, which could enhance your future prospects. Spending on luxury items may improve your lifestyle, but avoid getting drawn into glamour or indulgent habits, as they can harm your financial health.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You are advised to speak gently, as harsh words could disturb family harmony. Be mindful of unnecessary spending on showy or unimportant items just to maintain social status. Avoid carrying or keeping loose cash, and manage your finances carefully.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may focus on your child's education or extracurricular activities today. Taking advice from experts or consultants regarding career decisions could be beneficial. You may also receive good news about your child's academic performance and consider investing in a family business.

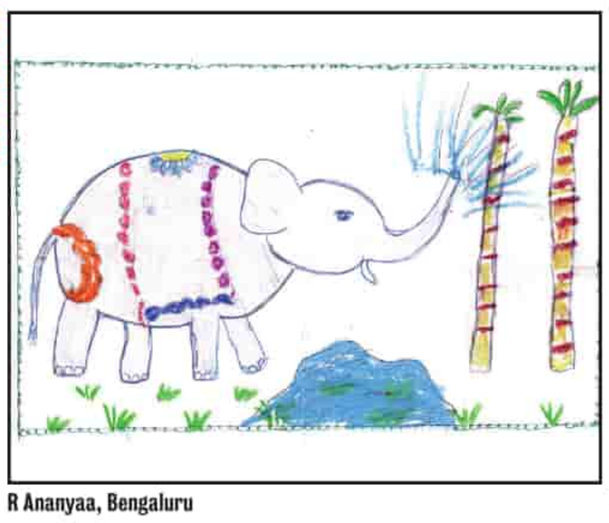
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Watch your words today—be cautious about potential hidden enemies or workplace conspiracies. Avoid risky investments and lending money, as recovery could be difficult. Meditation and yoga are recommended to reduce stress. Lovebirds should steer clear of controversial discussions. Students should put in extra effort.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Job seekers may receive new opportunities, and promotions are likely for those currently employed. In business, acquiring new clients could lead to increased profits. Singles might find a compatible partner. In your personal life, be open with your spouse to prevent misunderstandings or emotional distance.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today brings professional success. Your efforts are now beginning to yield results, especially in terms of profits. Past investments may also show gains. Creativity can enhance your skills, and job seekers might find promising opportunities. Students will regain focus through self-reflection. You'll also develop a deeper understanding of your partner's emotions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You might feel emotionally low until the afternoon. However, blessings from elders could lift your spirits later in the day. Your determination will help you complete delayed tasks. Avoid arguments at home to maintain harmony. By evening, past investments may begin to bring financial returns.

KIDZONE



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Ashiya, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= ((5^4 × 5^-6) / (5^-4))^1/2
= (5^4-6-(-4))^1/2
= (5^2)^1/2 = 5

RIDDLER
Roll the spheres on a level flat surface. The hollow sphere will roll further because its mass is distributed away from the center giving it a higher moment of inertia. Alternatively, you could spin them and see which is harder to stop.

BULL'S EYE
amid, damn, maDDING, maid, main, mind

FAST FIVE

S	W	A	P	S
C	A	M	E	L
A	V	I	S	O
L	E	N	T	O
D	R	O	O	P

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
5. Start with the letter in the top left, and move clockwise around the square. The numerical value of the letters follows the sequence of prime numbers, from 2 to 19.

QUOTE UNCODE
History is an endless repetition of the wrong way of living.

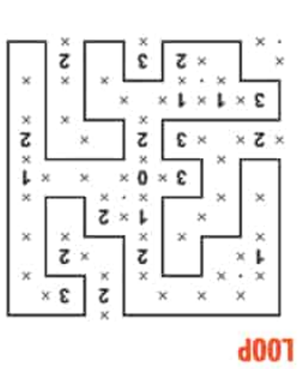
SUDOKU

6	9	2	8	7	3	4	5	1
3	8	1	6	5	4	2	9	7
7	5	4	2	1	9	3	6	8
5	2	8	7	4	6	1	3	9
9	1	3	5	8	2	6	7	4
4	6	7	3	9	1	5	8	2
8	7	6	4	2	5	9	1	3
2	3	9	1	6	7	8	4	5
1	4	5	9	3	8	7	2	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0 , So, Iso, Soli, Folls, Follos, Foolish.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 - 5 + 3 - 2 = 1
Medium
2 + 2 + 1 x 7 = 35
Hard
8 - 6 + 8 + 4 = 14

LOOP



KAKURO

Volume No 18, Issue No 113 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru – 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Glamour for all

Tamannaah speaks about how style is not just for celebrities anymore

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia is glad that glamour, style, and endorsements are no longer limited to just celebrities. At Flipkart's third edition of Glam Up Fest 2025 held in Mumbai on June 6–7, the Baahubali star said, "I really feel that glamour, looking good and endorsements should not be limited to actors. I'm happy that so many people today provide beauty solutions and become influencers. Even when I was younger, I felt glamorous only when I was most comfortable and connected with myself."

With over 6,000 influencers and 100+ beauty and grooming brands participating, Tamannaah added, "Events like these offer unique beauty experiences. As actors, we are constantly learning, and it's important to adapt to the changing needs of the profession." On what drives her today, she shared, "I'm in a phase where I'm looking inwards for inspiration. I want to express myself in the most honest way possible and stay focused on my work. I am trying to find ways through which I can express myself in the most honest way. I am enjoying this phase."

The event also featured stars like Wamiqa Gabbi and Tara Sutaria, who discussed the rise of influencer culture and live e-commerce.

On the film front, Tamannaah continues her action-packed run with Odela 2 and Raid 2 already behind her, and upcoming titles like Ranger and Rohit Shetty's untitled action drama lined up.

–ETimes

Simple joys

Being an actor means staying away from home for long periods of time, and everyone ends up inventing their own way of overcoming their feeling of being homesick.

Through her latest Instagram post, actress Pooja Hegde shared that one of her favorite homesick remedies is to enjoy a hot cup of tea with some yummy Parle-G biscuits.

The 'Retro' actress dropped a clip on her Instagram handle, where she was seen enjoying this beloved combo.

She was heard saying in the background, "Simple joys to make me feel like I am at home".

Taking out one of the biscuits from the pack, she said, "Dubaoing (dipping) this in my chai"

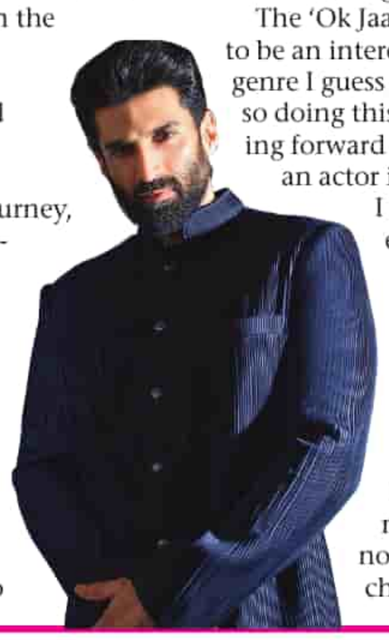
After treating herself to this soul food, Pooja proclaimed at last, "Oh my God! This is some dangerous stuff." Her post further included the caption, "Nothing screams home like parle g in my chai... Homesick remedies."

–IANS

Aditya on taking a bold risk

Bollywood actor Aditya Roy Kapur opened up about stepping out of his comfort zone and taking a bold risk with his role in the upcoming film 'Metro In Dino.'

The actor shared how this project challenged him to explore uncharted territory as an actor, marking a fresh chapter in his career. Speaking about where this film fits in his personal journey, Aditya shared, "This seems like something I haven't done before as an actor. It's a very interesting, idiosyncratic character that seems to dance to the beat of his own drum and gave me the opportunity to really take chances and have fun with it. It's nice to be able to do something light. the last thing that I did was The Night Manager, which was very fulfilling but also intense, so it's nice to go from something intense to something lighter so that in this way you are doing different things."



The 'Ok Jaanu' actor added, "I think it's going to be an interesting and fun character and it's a genre I guess that I enjoy. I enjoyed the first Metro so doing this one was something that I was looking forward to. For me my personal journey as an actor is just about trying to do things that I haven't done before. It's always exciting, gets you the slight amount of fear which can be a very good driving force when you are going into the unknown and I find that that's when you are the most alive and you can possibly do your best work when you are just at the edge of kind of something you don't know whether it's good or not. It's nice to be in that space where you are not sure that means you are taking a chance..."

–IANS

Congratulations to Tom, Zawe

Broadway star Zawe Ashton and Avengers actor Tom Hiddleston have announced that they are expecting their second child together.

As per People magazine, the couple shared the news through a pregnancy announcement in a recent interview. Ashton proudly showed off her baby bump at the UK premiere of Hiddleston's 'The Life of Chuck' during SXSW London on June 7.

Ashton wore an elegant Emilia Wickstead sky-blue silk crepe gown to showcase her baby bump on the red carpet.

This adorable moment marked a special milestone in their relationship, which began when they met while co-starring in the 2019 play 'Betrayal.'

The couple welcomed their first child in October 2022 and now looks forward to expanding their family further.

Ashton's pregnancy journey has been documented through various events, including her baby bump debut at a movie screening in June 2022.

Although Hiddleston rarely speaks about their relationship, he expressed happiness about their partnership in a March 2022 interview. The couple got engaged in 2022.

'The Life of Chuck' is a film that has garnered attention for its unique storytelling and exploration of complex themes.

The movie likely explores themes of life, mortality, and human connection, given the title's introspective nature.

The narrative might follow the life journey of its protagonist, Chuck, delving into his experiences, relationships, and personal growth.

–ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Title unveiled

Kada Nataraj, an engineer, joins the list of techies who have realised their dreams of making a name in Sandalwood. Nataraj debuts as a hero with the movie Karikaada. The movie title was unveiled by director Santhosh Anandram.

The team of the movie paid tribute to Rakesh Poojari, who has acted in the movie, and those who died in the stampede outside the cricket stadium. The movie is expected to be released in Kannada and Tamil. The movie's audio rights were bought by Lahari Velu.

"I could attend the shoots during the weekends. I am very happy with the quality of the movie. I thank director Gilli Venkatesh. I have acted in Varnama, a documentary film, in 2018, before this," said Nataraj.

Nataraj's better half Deepthi Damodar, in association with Ravikumar SR, has bankrolled the movie under the Riddhi Entertainment banner. "The shooting of the movie was held in Chikkamagaluru, Kalasa, Kudremukh, Mandya, and Channarayapatna. "We put up a set at Sarapanahalli for this movie. The movie has some computer graphics and it took more time to complete the post-production works," he said.

Choreographer turns director

Choreographer Jeevan Hallikar is on cloud nine at having reached one more milestone in Sandalwood with his debut directorial Black Sheep. Hallikar was a dancing partner for Sruthi Hariharan in the film Hare Rama Hare Krishna and for Charmy Kaur in the movie Dev Son of Mudde Gowda. He has worked as a choreographer for Ellige Payana Yavudo Daari.

With all the experience gained all these years, he managed to write the script, screenplay and handle the megaphone apart from working as a choreographer for Black Sheep. The movie's team organised a function to unveil the teaser, title, and songs of the movie at SRV Preview Theatre on Saturday. Ashwini Gurucharan, in association with Manjunath P Rao, has bankrolled the movie under the Glitterers Star House Production banner. Ashwini has also worked as a costume designer for this movie.